

3 October 2016

## *To Faith Communities in Cape Breton*

Dear Friends:

**RE: “Practical Green Audit and Follow-Up” – A Unique Opportunity for Cape Breton Faith Communities – Request for Expressions of Interest**

Is your Cape Breton place of faith struggling to make the building a safe, hospitable space for worship and community ministry? Are your drafty windows and leaky taps drawing precious financial resources away from local outreach? Are you called to find ways your place of faith can walk more gently upon the earth?

Cape Breton University’s Tompkins Institute is working on these issues with the national non-profit organization Faith & the Common Good as well as Nova Scotia and local partners, including the Ecology Action Centre and the Sydney Architectural Conservation Society.

**We will be offering three Cape Breton faith communities a qualified, practical *Green Audit and Follow-Up* at no charge.** We are adapting this respected and proven national program to the needs and challenges of Cape Breton ([www.greeningsacredspaces.net](http://www.greeningsacredspaces.net)).

The ***Green Audit and Follow-up*** are designed to help faith groups conserve energy, lower operational costs, seek out community partners to support sustainability goals; and share learning with the larger community. There is a focus on finding the “low-hanging fruit” – **simple, cost-effective measures** that can be taken to significantly improve building sustainability, often with a quick return on investment from a financial standpoint. There is also a focus on the comfort and health of the congregation, how to maximize your building’s community impact, and the ways in which meeting space can be hospitable to all.

The three participating faith communities will receive

- A 3-4 hour walk-through Green Audit and comprehensive report tailored to the needs of your congregation. This will take place during the third week of November 2016.
- Follow up support from local partners to formulate and implement an action plan based on audit findings and congregational capacity.

- Support to evaluate your performance and continue this work on your own.

The estimated value of this service is \$3,000. There will be no charge to the congregations.

In exchange for this contribution and service from CBU and Faith & the Common Good, applicants must agree to:

1. Provide one year's worth of energy consumption data. This data will help establish a baseline against which places of faith can measure performance improvements year over year.
2. Assemble a congregational green team (2-3 persons) to participate in the program.
3. Participate in 2 follow-up workshops to make, implement, and evaluate a plan of action based on audit results
4. Share results and learnings through pictures and stories so that others may learn from your own congregation's journey.

**Please submit an expression of interest by Monday, October 24, 2016, to [tom\\_urbaniak@cbu.ca](mailto:tom_urbaniak@cbu.ca).** Please include the name and coordinates of your faith community's main contact person for this program and a statement of about 300 words on why your faith community is interested in this service and why it would be interested in trying to follow up on the recommendations of a **Green Audit**.

Please contact the under-signed at 902-563-1226 should you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Urbaniak, Ph.D.  
Department of Political Science / Director, Tompkins Institute

cc: Dr. Lucy Cummings, Executive Director, Faith & the Common Good  
Stephen Collette, Green Audit Manager, Faith & the Common Good.  
Emma Norton, Energy Efficiency Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre